

Understanding Firearm Injuries

Firearm injuries are among the leading causes of injury death in Indiana. In 2024, firearm injuries accounted for one in five (20%) total injury deaths, including 65% of suicides and 79% of homicides. Firearm injuries are preventable, and evidence-based suicide prevention, violence prevention, and safe usage and storage of firearms can help reduce the number of firearm-related injuries and deaths.

Impact and Magnitude of Firearm Injuries

In 2024, more than 3,300 firearm injuries occurred in Indiana, including 1,189 deaths (17.2 per 100,000), 510 non-fatal hospitalizations (7.4 per 100,000), and 1,672 non-fatal ED visits (24.1 per 100,000).¹ Data are not available to determine how many people with firearm injuries were treated in other settings or went untreated.

Firearm Injuries in Indiana, 2024:

- 1,189 deaths
- 510 hospitalizations
- 1,672 ED visits

Manner of Firearm Deaths

In 2024, suicide was the leading manner of firearm death in Indiana, accounting for 763 deaths (64%). Homicide was the second leading manner of firearm death, accounting for 378 deaths (32%). There were 11 unintentional firearm deaths (1%), 11 firearm deaths of undetermined intent (1%), and 26 firearm deaths (2%) due to legal intervention.

Figure 1. Manner of death among firearm injury deaths, Indiana, 2024

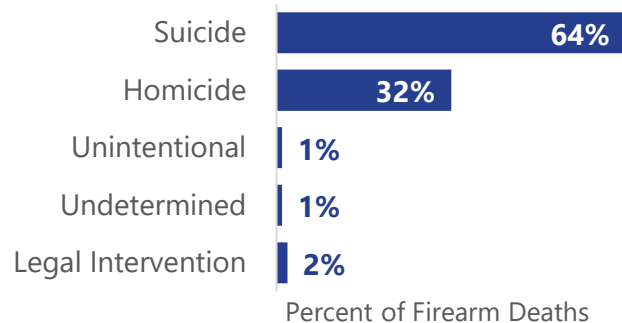
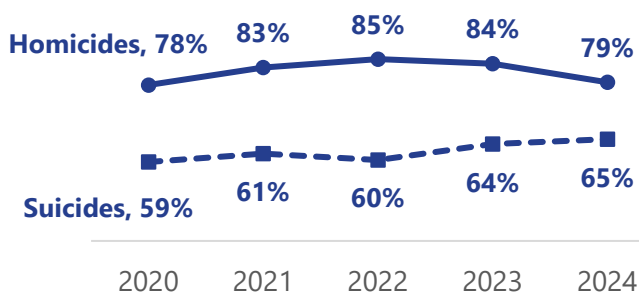


Figure 2. Percentage of homicide and suicide deaths due to firearms, Indiana, 2019-2023



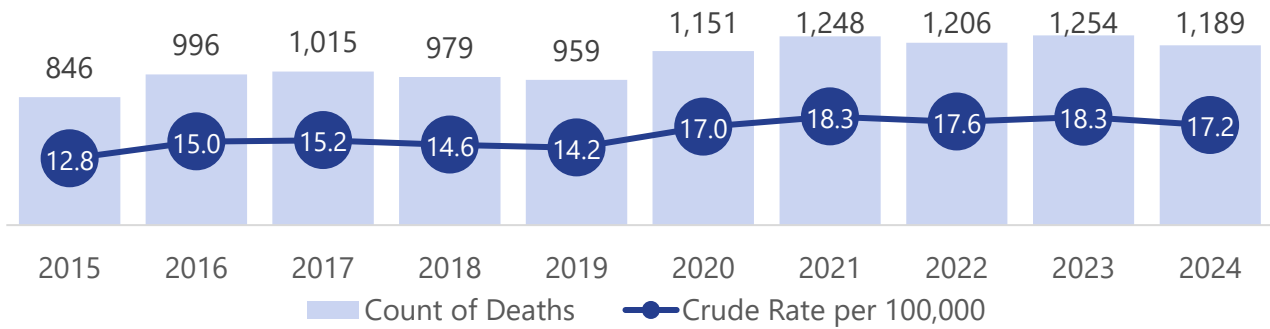
Throughout the last five years, firearm injuries have also accounted for the majority of suicide and homicide deaths. In 2024, firearms accounted for 65% of suicide deaths, up from 59% in 2020. Firearms accounted for 79% of homicide deaths in 2024, down from their peak at 85% in 2022 (figure 2).

¹ Firearm deaths are from Indiana vital records. Hospitalization and ED visit data are from Indiana hospital discharge data and include only non-fatal hospitalizations and ED visits. Firearm deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits were calculated based on definitions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/injury-core-sipp/media/pdfs/2024/06/CORRECTED-2022-Injury-Indicator-Instructions.pdf>.

Trends in Firearm Injury Deaths

Overall, the rate of firearm deaths increased by over 34% between 2015 and 2024 (12.8 vs. 17.2 per 100,000, respectively), with two notable increases occurring between 2015 and 2016 and between 2019 and 2020. The increase in firearm injury deaths was driven primarily by increases in suicides and homicides due to firearms during that time.

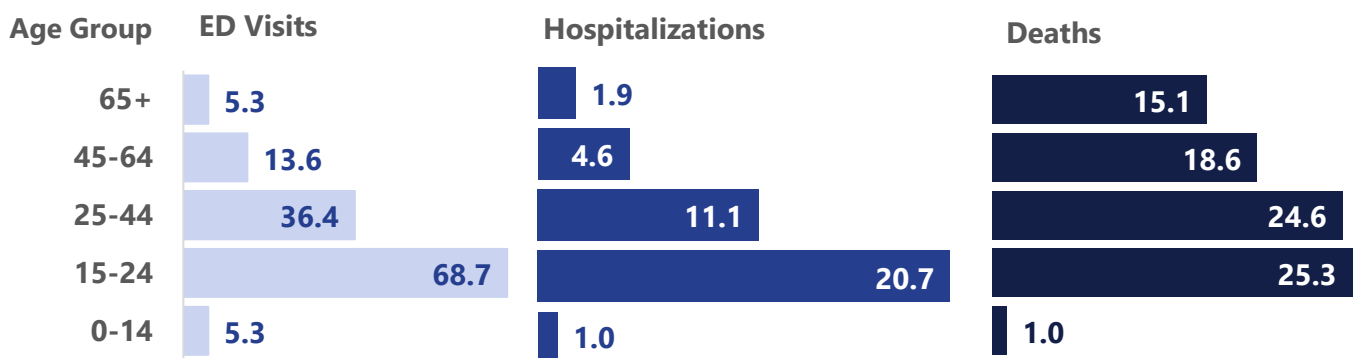
Figure 3. Deaths due to firearm injury, Indiana, 2015-2024



Firearm Injuries by Age Group

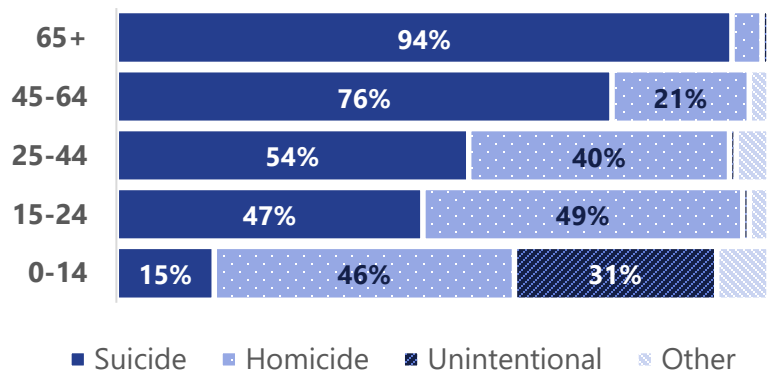
In 2024, adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 had the highest rates of firearm injury ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths, followed by adults ages 25 to 44 and adults ages 45 to 64 (figure 4). Firearm injury rates were lowest among children ages 0-14.

Figure 4. Age distribution of firearm injury ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths, Indiana, 2024



Homicide was the leading manner of firearm death for children ages 0 to 14 and young adults ages 15 to 24 (46% and 49% of firearm deaths, respectively). Suicide was the leading manner of firearm deaths for adults ages 25 to 44 (54%), ages 45 to 64 (76%), and 65 and older (94%). Children ages 0-14 had the highest proportion of unintentional firearm deaths (31%) (figure 5).

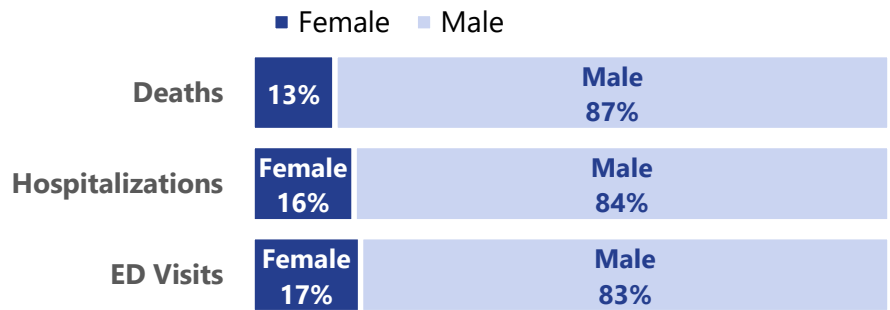
Figure 5. Manner of firearm deaths by age group, Indiana, 2024



Firearm Injuries by Sex

In 2024, males accounted for more than eight in 10 firearm injury ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. Additionally, the rate of firearm deaths among males was more than six times the rate among females (30.0 vs. 4.6 per 100,000, respectively). Suicide was the leading manner of firearm death for both males (65%) and females (62%).

Figure 6. Firearm injury deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits by sex, Indiana, 2024



Firearm Deaths by Race and Ethnicity

Rates of firearm injury deaths differed by race and ethnicity, with the highest rate among non-Hispanic (NH) Black persons (43.7 per 100,000) (figure 7). Manner of firearm death also varied by race and ethnicity. Most firearm deaths among non-Hispanic white people and people of other/multiple races were due to suicide (84% and 66%, respectively). In contrast, most firearm injury deaths among non-Hispanic Black Hoosiers (74%) and Hispanic Hoosiers (57%) were due to homicide (figure 8).

Figure 7. Crude rates per 100,000 of firearm deaths, by race and ethnicity, Indiana, 2024

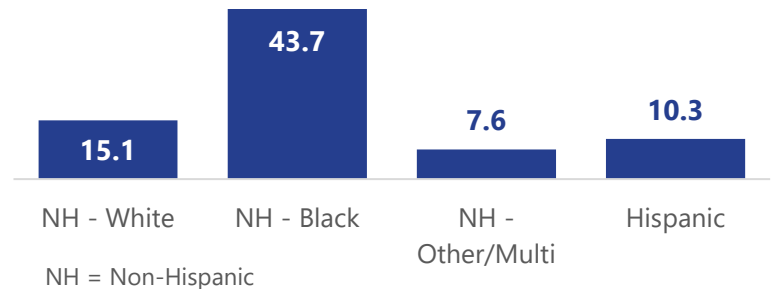
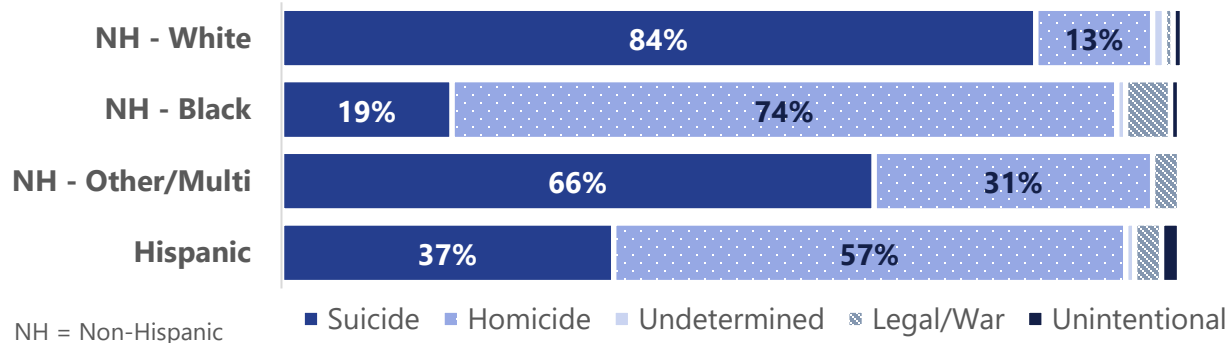


Figure 8. Firearm injury deaths by race/ethnicity and intent, Indiana, 2024



Firearm Injury Prevention and Safety Resources

Additional information about firearm injury prevention is available at the links below:

- CDC Firearm Injury and Death Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/prevention/index.html>
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: <https://988lifeline.org/>
- Indiana State Police Firearms Safety: <https://www.in.gov/isp/firearms-licensing/get-more-information/firearms-safety-information/>

